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The Gazette

Entertainment - Comics - Women's

Pages 13 to 20, Friday, August 15, 1975

By BETTY GUERNSEY

What do you do in the middle of the night in Montreal if you want a pint of milk, a loaf of bread, or a necessary medication?

That, dear Watson, is the question.

A scant few years ago, Montreal was can open city at night, not only for entertainment, but for things like all-night or most-of-the-night newsstands, late-night grocers, and at least one 24-hour pharmacy.

In 1970 Provincial by-laws were passed restricting the hours of commercial retail establishments, with a few exemtions in the case of commodities such as newspapers and periodicals; tobacco; meals; pharmaceutical, hygienic or sanitary products; gasoline or motor oil. These types of businesses may stay open beyond official closing times of 8.30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday to Wednesday, 8.30 a.m. to 9 p.m. Thursday and Friday, and 8.30 a.m. to 5 p.m Saturday, should they so wish. Clubs, however, must close at 3 a.m.

The big problem is that most of these businesses don't wish The laws really aren't that restrictive, but Montreal's personality has changed These days it's hard to find anything open much past the witching hour of midnight, especially if you really need it.

GROCERIES, for example. Grocery stores, as long as they are operated by only three people, including employer and employees, may stay open all night if they want, but few do. **Perette** handy stores, with 185 branches in Montreal and suburbs, are open from 9 a.m.-11 p.m. daily for staples such as milk, cigarettes, orange juice and bread. (Or they should be — however, people have been complaining lately that some Perette branches have been closing as early as 10.30 p.m. if they feel like it.) **Fairmount Bagel Bakery,** 263 St. Viateur W., where you can get bagels, bread and eggs, used to be open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, but now is open all night on Friday and Saturday only. The rest of the week it's open from 7 a.m. to mitnight. If you desperately want or need milk in the middle of the night, you'll have to go to a restaurant that's open and buy it from them, at restaurant prices.

DRUGSTORES Situation: grim. Until a few years ago, Montreal had one drugstore, Montreal Pharmacy, which was open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Now it seems there are none — it simply isn't a paying proposition. Montreal Pharmacy's successor, **Pharmacie Jean Coutu** at 916 Ste Catherine E., is open from 8.30 a.m. to midnight, 845-7251. If you're in desperate need of medication, the only thing you can do is go to the nearest hospital emergency.

MAGAZINES, NEWSPAPERS AND CIGARETTES: Tabagie Laval, 826 Ste Catherine E., is open 24 hours a day with books, smoking supplies, international newspapers and magazines, **Tabagie Couche-Tard,** 410 Cremazie E., from 6 a.m. to midnight. **Metropolitan News,** 1248 Peel, is open from 8 a.m. to midnight daily, and **International News,** 2187 Ste Catherine W., from 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. daily, for newspapers and magazines only.

TRANSPORTATION: The **Métro** runs from 5.30 a.m. to 1.30 a.m. seven days a week. **Buses:** The 15 Ste Catherine and 31 St. Denis run on a 24-hour basis. Others, such as the 24 Sherbrooke, 80 Park, 17 Decarie, 34 Papineau E., 86 Notre Dame E., 35 Notre Dame W., and 107 Verdun, run until between 3 a.m. to 4 a.m. and resume again at 5 a.m. Provincial and intercity bus lines operate all night from the **Voyageur Terminus,** at 505 de Maisonneuve E. **Trains:** The only commuter train to run after midnight is the 12.15 a.m. commuter to Deux Montagnes from Central Station, which leaves Deux Montagnes at 1.20 a.m. and returns to Central Station. **Taxis:** Most taxi companies operate on a 24-hour basis. In fact, if you're stuck and nowhere near a running bus line, a cab may be your only bet.

TOILETS AND SHOWERS: 24-hour toilet facilities are available at **Central Station, Windsor Station** and **Voyageur Bus Terminus.** CN **Central Station,** however, is the only one to have baths for women and showers for men. Washrooms off hotel lobbies are generally open 24 hours a day. You could also search out a restaurant that's open — by law, all eating places are required to provide washroom facilities.

POST OFFICE: The only Post Office to stay open late is the main branch at 1025 St. james W., which is open from 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. Monday to Friday. After midnight, the only way to send a parcel would be via bus from the Voyageur Terminus. For letters, you could get stamps from the vending machines which are outside most post offices. For telegrams, **CN-CP Telecommunications,** 360 St. James W., 844-2575; and **Canadian Overseas Telecommunication Corporation,** 625 Belmont, 866-2501, are open day and night.

MONEY: At the moment, two banks have a 24-hour cash service, consisting of a credit-like card which can be inserted into a special money machine outside the bank at any hour of the day and night. **Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce** has about 19 branches in Montreal with this service, from which packages of $30 may be drawn. **City & District Savings Bank** has a similar service at eight of its branches, for packages of $25.

SERVICE STATIONS: The latest thing is 24-hour self-service stations for gasoline only, springing up all over town. All-night stations that do road service and towing are found on most heavily-trafficked arteries, and include the Texaco station at Metcalfe and de Maisonneuve W., the Gulf at Mansfield and de Maisonneuve W., and the Texaco at Cote des Neiges and Jean Brillant, among many others. Stations that do repairs at night are much harder to find.

CINEMAS are allowed by law to operate after midnight, but most don't. Exceptions are the so-called "festival" cinemas: **The Flick,** 1433 Crescent, and **Piccadilly,** 5025 Sherbrooke W., who have midnight shows Friday, Saturday and Sunday, and the **Outremont,** xlr8 Bernard W., and **2001,** 855 Decarie in St. Laurent, Friday and Saturday midnights.

EMERGENCIES: Montreal Police, 872-1313. **Montreal Fire Department,** 872-1212. Poison Control, **Montreal Children's Hospital,** 937-8511. **St. Justine's,** 731-4931. **Gaz Métropolitain,** 24 hours, 527-8411. **Hydro-Québec,** 24 hours, 381-4611. 24-hour answering service and wake-up service: **TAS Communications,** 866-6921, **Alert Answering Service,** 739-6378; **Ace Answering Service,** 845-5522, among others.

RESTAURANTS OPEN 24 HOURS: Dunn's, 892 Ste Catherine W.; **Dankoff's,** 1446 Peel; **The Briton,** 1606 Ste Catherine W.; **Pierce Delicatessen,** 1639 Ste Catherine W.; **Doughnut Shop,** 1614 Ste Catherine W.; **Moe's Corner Snack Bar,** 1455 Closse at de Maisonneuve; **Harlem Chow Mein Restaurant,** 771 Mountain; **La Presse Restaurant,** 902 St. Lawrence; **Pantheon,** 1437 St. Lawrence; **Main St. Lawrence (Kravitz's) Steak House,** 3887 St. Lawrence; **La Fontaine de Johannie,** 3666 St. Denis; **AA Restaurant and Delicatessen,** St. Denis at Rachel; **Green Garden (Chinese),** 223 Ste Catherine E.; **Ricksha,** 83 Lagauchetière W.; **Peninsula** (Chinese), 1108 Clark; **Regent Shish Kebab,** 5169 Park; **Three Minute Hot Smoked Meat,** 1816 Mt. Royal E.; **La Maisonette,** 1604 Mt. Royal E.; **Restaurant Tic-Tac,** 6583 Sherbrooke E.; **Cozy Delicatessen,** 4111 Beaubien E.; **Nuway Smoked Meat and Delicatessen,** 4493 Papineau; **Le Louvre,** 1800 Ste Catherine E.; **Blanche Neige,** 5735 Cote des Neiges; **Mike's Spaghetti House,** 3762 Wellington, Verdun; **LaSalle Bar-B-Q,** 462 Lafleur, LaSalle.

RESTAURANTS OPEN ALMOST ALL NIGHT: Ben's, 990 de Maisonneuve W., 7 a.m.-4 a.m. Monday-Wednesday, 7 a.m.-5 a.m. Thursday-Sunday; **Ben Ash,** 1 Ste Catherine E., 7 a.m.-4 a.m. daily; **Harvey's Hamburgers,** 1853 Ste Catherine W., 10 a.m.-4 a.m. daily; **Maxwell's,** 2060 Aylmer, noon-3 a.m. Sunday-Thursday, to 5 a.m. Friday and Saturday; **Greene Avenue Lunch Bar,** opens at 3.30 a.m.; **Chow's,** 6020 Sherbrooke W., 11 a.m.-5 a.m. daily; **Old Vienna,** 1250 Bleury, 10 a.m.-5 a.m. Thursday to Saturday; **Da Giovanni,** 572 Ste Catherine E., opens at 8 a.m., closes Sunday at 2 a.m., Monday-Wednesday at 2.30 a.m., Thursday at 3 a.m., and Friday-Saturday 4 a.m.; **Welcome Café** (Chinese), 20 Lagauchetière W., 10.30 a.m.-4 a.m. daily; **Jade Garden,** 57 Lagauchetière W., 11.30 a.m.-4 a.m., except Sunday, to 2 a.m.; **Meracles,** 5396 Park, 8 a.m.-5 a.m. daily; **Dionysus,** 5301 Park, 5 p.m.-5 a.m. daily; **Li Wah Café,** 10815 Pie IX, 11 a.m.-4 a.m. daily; **La Tosca,** 825 Notre Dame, Lachine, 8 a.m.-2 a.m. Sunday-Wednesday, to 4 a.m. Thursday-Saturday.

Bachman-Turner Overdrive's Fred Turner (left), Robbie Bachman, Randy Bachman and Blair Thornton, appearing in Montreal tomorrow night.

BTO: Rock's reigning pragmatists always roll to destination on time

Rock & Pop

by Juan Rodriguez

The Regina airport, simmering in a flat mid-summer prairie heatwave, was being overrun by husky fellows in T-shirts, jeans, long hair, rusty beards and cowboy hats.

While waiting for luggage, they talked with close family and friends — kids, mothers, streetcorner pals, well-wishers.

Although some wore Bachman-Turner-Overdrive insignias on their T-shirts, they were not recognized by most of the other people in the airport as one of the world's most popular rock groups. They did not look like a rock group, they looked like sunburned cowboys.

HIDING

Randy Bachman, the leader and brainchild of BTO, sat off to the side, hiding himself in smalltalk with a couple of friends. He looked more like a road manager than a rock star. But that is the style of BTO, who had arrived in the noonday sun to perform the preview concert of their first tour of their homeland, a tour that will gross $1.5 million.

It's a-cryin' shame
That some of us have not survived
No use in askin' how it happened
But very few are left alive
I just wanna keep on makin' music
I gotta keep on keepin' on
You're only as good as your last record
I know that someday we'll be gone
(from Rock Is My Life. This Is My Song, by Randy Bachman copyright Rambach Music)

Over 30, wearing a neatly clipped beard on a plump mature face with wide eyes that look straight at you, Randy Bachman is not a typical rock star. He does not drink, he does not smoke marijuana. He is a Mormon.

Once, coming out of his hometown of Winnipeg, he was the lead guitarist and composer for The Guess Who, which until BTO was the most popular rock group to rise from Canada. He quit that group at the instant that its most popular single disc, American Woman (the music of which he wrote), reached the top of the charts. He disagreed with the way the group was coping with success, he wanted no part of it.

HUGE FLOPS

He formed a group called Brave Belt with his kid drummer brother, Robbie, and a barroom singer from Winnipeg, C. F. Turner. Their first two albums were monumental flops. After reorganizing the band (another brother, Tim, had come and gone back to a quieter life, and was replaced by guitarist Blair Thornton, whose only rock experience was playing local high school dances), he changed the name to Bachman-Turner Overdrive and moved their style away from country-rock and fully into heavy metal.

Bachman's name was mud after the Brave Belt disaster: Their new record was turned down by no less than 26 record companies and bigtime promoters in the major cities wouldn't go near him.

So Bachman settled for the so-called "secondary" markets, hiring independents to do their promoting. For over a year, BTO ground out a constituency. The album started selling, eventually winding up on the charts for a year, never at the top but hanging around while others came and went.

Over the past two years, BTO's four albums have sold more copies than those of any other rock band. Two of them have been bought a million times or more in the U.S., while the other two have earned a million dollars each.

In Canada they've moved over 600,000 albums, while they have sold the equivalent of "gold" records in Germany, Australia, Sweden, New Zealand, South Africa and Austria. On their recent European tour, the police chief of Frankfurt made a special appeal for them to schedule a second show, fearing that those who couldn't obtain tickets for their concert would break down the box office.

But time, and time, is all I got
You know I was born standin' up with a guitar in my hand
I'm not trying to come on like Hollywood
But Hollywood is what I am
(from Rock Is My Life . . .)

Although the sound of BTO is instantly recognizable, it is far from original or innovative. Bachman has freely admitted that he assimilates certain stock riffs and phrases used by the more successful rock bands (the Stones, the Who, and Led Zeppelin in particular). Clearly the group is not intent on setting the rock world on fire: They don' sing about demons and sexual adventures, they don't brag, they don't leer, they don't wear makeup or set bombs off on stage or destroy equipment on stage. Some critics have even called them dull.

So what is it that makes BTO so satisfying to so many?

They are rock music's reigning pragmatists; their music is designed almost solely to be dependable. It's loud and basic and, because Bachman doesn't let anything get in the way of these two elements, BTO is probably the least pretentious of all heavy rockers. They sound good on the cheapest or most expensive stereo system. Like a truck rolling through the night, they get to their destination on time: Their infallibility is their particular pop genius.

Bachman uses his stock phrases with a cool encyclopedic knowledge: he goes for the structure of a p r e v i o u s ly-made-famous phrase, rather than its original character.

In this way, he comes up with something transparent enough to be called his own. As songwriters (Bachman and Turner write the most) they don't let complex themes get in the way of their rock machinery. They sing about life on the road, scooping up the money while its available and not blowing it away. They can build a whole song about "Taking care of business" because the better they do it, the better off they and their family and friends will be.

When the music's over
You wonder where we are
I'm standin' in the silence
With my old guitar
(from Rock Is My Life . . .)

Most rock bands clamor for publicity but not BTO. They've never made headlines in the rock press by holding wild all-night parties or throwing television sets out of hotel windows or driving motorcycles into the pool.

As for the Canadian press, says Bachman, "They didn't recognize us until we had already made it in the States, and that's when they all came around."

Bachman was talking in Regina at the largest press conference ever held for a Canadian group, before their first show of the cross-Canada tour.

CALCULATED

I asked Bachman whether BTO's music was calculated to reach a mass audience.

"I guess you could call it calculated in a way. We sat down and said, 'Which groups have lasted five to 10 years?' The Sones, the Who, people like that. That kind of music doesn't get old, I knew there was a certain market for it, it's a real party kind of dance music. We all happen to like that so we are really enjoying what we are doing. When you're successful at something it makes you also like it."

Did he feel that BTO's anti-drug image resulted in the absence of critical kudos that the rock press have given lesser bands?

"People who write need something to get their books into. They need something to criticize, something to sensationalize on. I like to read those kinds of articles, I like to read about Keith Moon throwing things out the window but that's not the way I am so there's no point in copying.

"One of the comments made about our group is that there's nothing that controversial about us unless you compare us to every other group. We have certain rules and we have been successful with them so there's no reason for us to change them or for anybody to knock them. We're not putting anyone else down. I think there's room for everybody."

Bachman speaks as solid as his music. He loves rock 'n' roll (he says he could play any kind of music if he has the inclination) but he doesn't want to be a victim of the rock wars.

"There's money coming in and you might as well get it. It's your talent, your songwriting or whatever, and you've got to look after it.

But what about the rap that BTO is unadventurous? Can their style of music last indefinitely

"I think it can. I just read that the Who are doing another new album and I don't expect anything different from what they had been doing. The Rolling Stones just keep on rolling. Guys come and go in that band but they still have that identity. The music's around. It doesn't matter who's doing it. The people will always buy that kind of music so why shouldn't we be doing it?

"Now we're going to push the boundaries and do a little more playing on the album because we are all more talented than eight bar guitar solos. We're still going to keep the basic BTO identity, we're just going to stretch out a little more. We've evolved a lot musically also. Lately on stage we've allowed ourselves to do some jamming, which is very exciting for us because it's different every night."

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